

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a document-scanning system having a scanner lamp, a scanner sensor, and a scanner cover, said scanner cover having a document-backing surface, said document-backing surface comprising:
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- (a) at least one first nonreflective surface at least partially covering said document-backing surface;
  - (b) at least one second nonreflective surface at least partially covering said document-backing surface;
  - 10 (c) said at least one first nonreflective surface for absorbing light;
  - (d) said at least one second nonreflective surface for absorbing light;
  - (e) at least one first specularly reflective surface at least partially covering said at least one second nonreflective surface; and
  - 15 (f) said at least one first specularly reflective surface for reflecting light.
2. The document-backing surface of claim 1, wherein said at least one first specularly reflective surface is oriented to reflect light from said scanner lamp to said scanner sensor.
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3. The document-backing surface of claim 1, wherein said at least one first nonreflective surface is at an angle to said at least one second nonreflective surface.
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4. The document-backing surface of claim 1, wherein said at least one first nonreflective surface is a plurality of first nonreflective surfaces.
5. The document-backing surface of claim 4, wherein each of said plurality of first nonreflective surfaces is parallel to each other.

6. The document-backing surface of claim 1, wherein said at least one second nonreflective surface is a plurality of second nonreflective surfaces.

7. The document-backing surface of claim 6, wherein each of said plurality of second nonreflective surfaces is parallel to each other.

8. The document-backing surface of claim 6, wherein each of said plurality of second nonreflective surfaces is at least partially covered by one of said first specularly reflective surfaces.

9. The document-backing surface of claim 1, further comprising at least one second specularly reflective surface at least partially covering said at least one first nonreflective surface, said at least one second specularly reflective surface for specularly reflecting light.

10. The document-backing surface of claim 1, wherein said at least one first nonreflective surface is in a planar relationship to said at least one second nonreflective surface.

11. The document-backing surface of claim 1, wherein said at least one first nonreflective surface is perpendicular to a cover geometric plane.

12. The document-backing surface of claim 1, wherein said at least one second nonreflective surface is in a plane parallel to said a cover geometric plane.

13. The document-backing surface of claim 1, wherein said at least one second nonreflective surface is at an angle to a cover geometric plane.

14. In a document-scanning system having a scanner lamp and a scanner sensor, a document-backing surface for absorbing light, said document-backing surface comprising:

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- (a) at least one specularly reflective surface;
  - (b) said at least one specularly reflective surface at least partially covering said document-backing surface; and
  - (c) said at least one specularly reflective surface oriented to reflect light from said scanner lamp to said scanner sensor.

10 15. The document-backing surface of claim 14, wherein said at least one specularly reflective surface is a plurality of specularly reflective surfaces.

15 16. The document-backing surface of claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of specularly reflective surfaces has a coefficient of reflectivity, each said coefficient of reflectivity being at least 5 percent.

20 17. The document-backing surface of claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of specularly reflective surfaces has a coefficient of reflectivity, each said coefficient of reflectivity being less than 100 percent.

18. The document-backing surface of claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of specularly reflective surfaces has a coefficient of reflectivity, each said coefficient of reflectivity such that the expression  $R_m \geq [R_o * R_p * \cos(\theta)] \frac{1}{r_1}$  is true.

25 19. In a document-scanning system having a scanner lamp, a scanner sensor, and a scanner cover, said scanner cover having a document-backing surface, said document-backing surface comprising:

- (a) at least one first nonreflective surface at least partially covering said document-backing surface;

- (b) at least one second nonreflective surface at least partially covering said document-backing surface;
- (c) said at least one first nonreflective surface for absorbing light; and
- (d) said at least one second nonreflective surface for absorbing light.

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20. The document-backing surface of claim 19, further comprising at least one first specularly reflective surface at least partially covering said at least one second nonreflective surface.

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21. The document-backing surface of claim 20, wherein said at least one first specularly reflective surface is for specularly reflecting light.

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22. In a document-scanning system having a document-scanning cover, said document-scanning cover having a first cover end, a second cover end opposite said first cover end, a first cover side, a second cover side opposite said first cover side, a document-backing surface against which a document is placed for scanning, an opposite surface opposite said document-backing surface, a longitudinal cover axis extending between said first cover end and said second cover end, a latitudinal cover axis extending between said first cover side and said second cover side, a cover geometric plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said latitudinal axis, and a thickness defined between said document-backing surface and said opposite surface, said document-backing surface comprising:

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- (a) at least one tooth;
- (b) each said at least one tooth having a first tooth surface and a second tooth surface;
- (c) each said first tooth surface being perpendicular to said cover geometric plane;
- (d) each said second tooth surface at an angle to said cover geometric plane; and

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- (e) each said at least one tooth having a first tooth side and a second tooth side.

23. The document-backing surface of claim 22, wherein each said first  
5 tooth surface is light-absorptive.

24. The document-backing surface of claim 22, wherein each said  
second tooth surface is light-absorptive.

10 25. The document-backing surface of claim 24, further comprising at  
least one first specularly reflective surface at least partially covering said second tooth  
surface, said at least one first specularly reflective surface being specularly light-  
reflective.

15 26. The document-backing surface of claim 24, further comprising at  
least one mirror at least partially covering each said second tooth surface.

27. The document-backing surface of claim 22, wherein each said  
second tooth surface extends between the top of one first tooth surface and the bottom of  
20 an adjacent first tooth surface.

28. The document-backing surface of claim 22, wherein said first  
cover end and said second cover end are parallel.

25 29. The document-backing surface of claim 22, wherein said first  
cover side and said second cover side are parallel.

30 30. The document-backing surface of claim 22, wherein each said first  
tooth side is perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and perpendicular to said latitudinal  
axis.

31. The document-backing surface of claim 22, wherein each said second tooth side is perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and perpendicular to said latitudinal axis.

- 5                    32. A method for scanning a document, said method comprising the steps of :
- 10                    (a) providing a scanner cover, said scanner cover having a document-backing surface;
- (b) providing a document for scanning;
- (c) placing said document-backing surface against said document;
- (d) shining a light on said document and said document-backing surface;
- (e) specularly reflecting a portion of said light from said document-backing surface onto a scanner lens; and
- 15                    (f) absorbing a portion of said light.